Gender on the agenda

You may be aware that there are concerns over gaps in the climate agreement at COP20 in Lima – emissions gaps, financial gaps, technology-transfer gaps, mitigation gaps - but there is another gap that you might not have realised is an issue at these negotiations - the gender gap.

It is widely known that climate change impacts on individuals differently; women, children, the elderly and those with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the adverse effects of climate change – food and water resources change, local livelihoods become disrupted, and health and coping capacities are impacted. Climate-change responses, therefore, must be gender-sensitive at the local level.

But what about gender issues at high-level negotiations? Gender also needs to feature at the international intervention stage – the participation of women in Convention processes and negotiations, in particular, needs improvement. This is the call of Agenda 16 - Gender and Climate Change - of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). Women are underrepresented in Parties and negotiation activities, and this week, the issue is to be considered during the high-level segment of the meeting.

Tuesday, 9th December marks Gender Day at COP20, when men and women are taking action on gender equality and climate change. Pray for the human rights of all people, at all levels, impacted by climate change, and for gender equality and mainstreaming in all targets and goals of both these and future UN climate talks.

